

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, claim 36 is amended to clarify that the another low-refractive-index layer has a refractive index of 1.2 to 1.4. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection to claims 36-37.

Claims 36-37 further stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite. The Examiner objects to "said another low-refractive-index layer is unitary with said low-refractive-index layer." In response, Applicants amended claim 36 as discussed above and amended claim 37 to clarify that the another low-refractive-index layer is "directly in contact" with the low-refractive-index layer, and request withdraw of the §112 rejection on this basis.

Claims 22, 24, 34-35 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Umemoto et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0012158). In response, Applicants amended claim 22 to clarify that the light source is directly coupled to a side surface of the light guiding plate, and that the polarizer is directly in contact with the reflective liquid crystal panel, and respectfully traverse.

Umemoto discloses an illumination device 5 that is directly connected to a cell board 28. The illumination device 5 is not directly coupled to a side surface of the layer 13, which the Examiner identifies as the light guiding plate. In addition, a polarizer 31 is juxtaposed between an adhesive layer 12 and a retarder layer 32, and does not directly

contact a reflective liquid crystal panel. Accordingly, since the claims are amended to recite these features, withdrawal of the §102 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 22, 24 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,340,999), in view of either the Kobayashi (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0017678) or the Watanabe (JP 8-220345) references. In response, Applicants traverse the rejection because the cited references, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest, among other things, a polarizer being directly in contact with a reflective crystal panel, as now recited in amended claim 22.

The Examiner correctly identifies Masuda as having a polarizer 4. However, the polarizer 4 is in direct contact with an adhesive layer 10 and an anti-reflection means layer 8. A gap is provided between the two anti-reflection layers 8 and 9, or between the anti-reflection layer 8 and the liquid crystal display device 5.

In contrast, the present invention calls for the polarizer to be directly in contact with the reflective liquid crystal panel. As discussed in Applicants' specification on page 31, lines 8-16, no air layer appears between the rear surface on a side of the liquid-crystal panel 85 and a surface of the polarizer 81. Accordingly, light L-21 illustrated in FIG. 13 reflects only on a reflective electrode 87, which minimizes the influence of a phenomenon in which the luminance of black increases and also the phenomenon of "ghost" (see Applicants' specification page 30, Ins. 6-12). Since the Kobayashi and Watanabe references are merely recited as teaching a plurality of projections, and because Applicants do not believe these

references overcome the deficiencies recited above, withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 22, 24 and 34 is respectfully requested.


Claims 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umemoto et al. in view of Obata (JP 5-297366). In response, Applicants traverse the rejection for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claim 22, and because Applicants believe that Obata fails to overcome the deficiencies recited above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §103 rejection is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 1, 2004

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